

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 4-7 and 9-10 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are amended for better clarity and not for substantial reasons related to patentability. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing claim amendments and following remarks.

The Office Action objects to claims 1, 2 and 4-6. Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are amended for better clarity and as the Examiner suggested. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1, 2, and 4-6 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over JP A 2003-69380 (JP 380). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

JP 380 was published on March 7, 2003, which is later than the December 17, 2002 priority date of the present application.

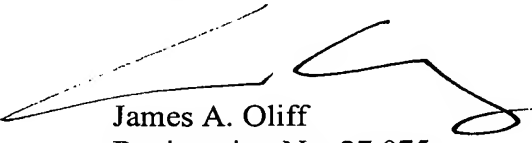
An English-language translation of the priority document JP Application No. 2002-364555 filed December 17, 2002 is enclosed to perfect the priority claim of the present application, so as to disqualify JP 380 as a prior art reference. The translation is an accurate translation of the priority document.

In view of the priority claim of the present application, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/sqb

Attachment:
English-language translation of JP A 2002-364555

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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